

APPROVED: MEETING NO. 29-85

ATTEST: *Nelen M. Hovsepian*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEETING NO. 25-85

May 7, 1985

The Mayor and Council convened in work session in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, on Tuesday, May 7, 1985, at 8:05 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Viola Hovsepian

Councilman Steve Abrams

Councilman Douglas Duncan  
(arrived at 9:00)

Councilman Peter Hartogensis

Councilman John Tyner, II

The Mayor in the Chair.

In attendance: City Manager Larry Blick; Secretary to the City Clerk Patricia Rager.

Re: Work Session

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Courthouse Square

Councilman Abrams asked why a zero-line budget is still be showing. Mr. Blick explained that zero line must be shown for three years and then the item can be deleted.

Town Center Parking Garage

Mr. Blick explained that garage repairs originally planned for FY 1985 from the Community Development Fund would be funded instead from the Town Center Garage fund balance, thereby making \$310,000 additional available in the Community Development Fund towards the Dover Road Storm Drain project. The fund balance in the Garage Fund is from the lump-sum payment to the City from the County for the long-term lease of the garage.

Housing Assistance

The Council asked if the relocation study had been completed. The staff said it is almost done. Mr. Duffy said \$3,000 was spent on the Relocation Study which came in under budget. Mr. Horne strongly suggested having a relocation plan in effect if the City needs to relocate people again.

Town Center Plan Implementation

Mayor Hovsepian asked where are the seven acres the City is trying to purchase. Mr. Horne said these are mainly right-of-way parcels all over the City.

Councilman Abrams asked if this was the appropriate time to discuss the Local Development Corporation (LDC). Mayor Hovsepian said she is not ready to discuss it now. Councilman Abrams asked if the Council needs to defer this item. Mr. Blick said no funds have been put into the Budget to support it. Mayor Hovsepian said she would like to see a separate work session on this item with the Economic Development Council and the Housing Policy Task Force. She thinks its a good idea. Mr. Blick said there are no projects to use it for right now and the staff will have to use hypothetical situations. Mr. Blick explained that the use of an LDC would be an alternative avenue then using the long process of Urban Renewal.

Councilman Abrams inquired about the \$15,000 in the budget for Satellite Parking. Mr. Horne said there have been no complaints from either the residents or the commercial establishments surrounding the Metro Stations. Mr. Blick said the money can be left in just in case a problem arises. Councilman Abrams said he would like to see it left in because with the new office buildings opening by the Metro Centers the City may have to study this further. He asked that the Council receive quarterly reports on the status of parking and to monitor the lots. Mayor Hovsepian suggested taking the budgeted money and using it for wish list items.

Town Center Plan Implementation

The Council made no changes.

**RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME SERVICES**Municipal Swim Center

Councilman Tyner said the would like to strike the \$45,000 for a slide. He said he is concerned about liability. Mr. Burt Hall explained that this is a new type of slide the City would like to purchase. It would empty out into the middle of the pool. It is 15 feet high and designed with safety in mind, it has three 360 turns and it has a three foot deep troth. Major consideration for safety has been looked at closely. Mayor Hovsepian asked how much of the pool area would be used. Mr. Hall said a 15 x 20 foot landing area would be roped off. Mayor Hovsepian noted that the purchase of the slide would be as a loan from the General Fund and asked the staff if it is possible to pay it back in a year. Mr. Hall explained that slide would be depreciated each year and with the

addition of 30 new family memberships it would be possible. He also felt that with the new slide, membership would increase. Councilman Tyner said he would like a memo on the insurance coverage. Mr. Blick mentioned that the slide will not be in for this summer but for the summer of 1986. Mayor Hovsepian asked how long it would take to build and when would construction take place. Mr. Bayor said installation would take place a year from now, spring of 1986.

#### Municipal Golf

Councilman Abrams said he has a problem with the treatment of debt service. If the debt service was deleted the Golf Course would be paying for itself and showing a profit. He raised the question of whether the sale of land in the Industrial Park surrounding the Golf Course could be applied to the debt service so that a profit could be shown. Mayor Hovsepian said she noticed that the expenditures keep going up and asked if this was a reflection of the debt service. The staff explained that the expenditures increased because improvements were made to the greens. Councilman Abrams said he would like to see the work out on the debt service. He thinks there is a benefit in here for the City. He would like to see it as an amenity where it would pay for itself. Mayor Hovsepian commented that the golf course has never showed it could pay for itself. Councilman Tyner added because of the debt service. Mr. Blick said he would have the Director of Finance prepare a balance sheet for the Mayor and Council.

#### Adult Athletics

Mayor Hovsepian thought this program was to pay for itself. Mr. Bayor explained that more emphasis has been put into the maintenance of the fields. Mr. Hall added that the City did not want to put a large fee increase onto the teams.

#### Youth Athletics

Councilman Hartogensis noted that there were no tennis programs offered. Mr. Hall said youth tennis is under Community Recreation Programs.

#### Cultural Arts

Councilman Abrams asked why STAR was not in the budget and if there was a reason for this. Mr. Blick said it was felt that this program would never be able to be self-supporting and he is recommending that the City not subsidize it any longer. The proposal for the coming season does not look as though it will do it this year either. Councilman Tyner said he agrees with the City Manager. The calibre of the productions is decreasing though STAR has made a good faith effort to come up with the money. Councilman Hartogensis asked if STAR is likely to make it without funding. Betty Cheslosky said STAR needs to discuss this now.

Mr. Blick said the Chorus has requested \$5,000 for robes. They would match \$2,500 if the City would put up the other \$2,500.

Councilman Tyner asked if any thought had been given to increasing the fees charged to the user groups once the improvements to the theatre are made. Mr. Giesey said the City has been doing slight increase every year.

#### Recreation Class Programs

Councilman Abrams said the programs are outstanding. He asked if any consideration has been given to other locations for the KAT program. Wendy Flint said a new program at Montrose Recreation center has been set up because there is no day-care there. Councilman Abrams asked even if there is a day care at the school, could there be a KAT program also. Ms. Flint explained that the problem is getting space because the KAT program runs during the day and competes with class time

(Councilman Duncan arrived at this time)

#### Courthouse Square Park

Councilman Abrams asked when the Block Party is scheduled. Marla Schoolmeester said the target date is September 7. Mr. Hall explained that the City would like to work with all civic associations in the City and ask them to contribute in some way and to help with the planning. Mayor Hovsepian asked if the business community would be included. Mr. Hall explained that the City has worked closely with individual civic associations but never as a whole. Councilman Duncan asked if this would take away from the neighborhood picnics. Mr. Bayor said it would not.

Councilman Abrams inquired about the Oktoberfest. Mrs. Schoolmeester said she would like to have assistance from the Sister City Task Force on this project.

#### Community Recreation Programs

Councilman Duncan asked the status of Project Go. Mr. Bayor said the guidelines established last year are being followed. Councilman Duncan said he would like to get a memo on this. Mayor Hovsepian noted that this program is not losing money.

#### Youth Summer Recreational Activities

Councilman Duncan noted that Maryvale Park will not have a playground this year. Jeff Williams said it has been moved to the school and is being combined with David Scull. He noted that there have been serious problems in that area lately and the felt the parents would feel safer with the children at the school

#### Special Events

Councilman Abrams questioned the figures used for the Easter Egg Hunt. Mr. Hayes said he thinks the numbers have decreased over the years. Councilman Abrams said he was at the Mansion and it seemed to him that the little kids were having a harder time this year. He asked if there were fewer eggs or perhaps the

way the eggs were disbursed. Mr. Hayes explained that he is re-evaluating the Civic Center location. There were the same number of eggs. He is looking at the geographical lay out and at the 4-5 and 6-7 year old groups.

Staff was congratulated on the success of Rockville Day. Councilman Abrams asked what would it cost to add two additional activity areas since he heard complaints about the long lines. Mr. Bayor said next year the cable slide will be run as a separate activity. He explained that the City alternates activities year to year. Councilman Abrams asked what it would mean in terms of the budget if two activities were added. Mr. Bayor said additional staff.

Mr. Bayor said AT&T Communications helped defray a lot of the costs this year. He asked if the Mayor and Council had a problem with this. If not, then this may be a way the Department could, in the future, help defray the cost with other projects.

The Council then discussed ideas for refreshments next year, maybe adding more vendors and the possibility of charging a token amount for popcorn. Mr. Bayor suggested using corporate sponsors to help cut some of the costs.

#### Civic Center Park

Councilman Duncan discussed the idea of two groups using the Mansion at the same time. Mr. Giesey said this has been done from some time. In order not to disturb the group downstairs, the upstairs group is routed up the back stair case by the Offices. Mr. Giesey said there is 90% capacity for weddings on Friday and Saturday and he expects the weddings on Sundays to pick up now that the restriction on time has been removed.

Councilman Duncan asked if there has been a complete analysis done on what improvements the Mansion needs. It seems that the Mansion is rehabilitated in piecemeal fashion. Mr. Giesey said nothing comprehensive has been done. Things are repaired when needed. Mr. Bayor explained that the City is doing preventive maintenance.

#### Facilities Maintenance

Councilman Abrams asked if there are any new parks schedules for the Orchard Ridge Section. Mr. Bayor said one is schedule next to the Church. Mr. Hayes recited the list of equipment and uses the park will have and added that there is not enough room to add tennis courts. Councilman Abrams asked if there has been given any thought to adding more tennis courts west of I-270. He added that this might be considered as a wish list item.

#### Parks, Playgrounds and Playfields Maintenance

The Mayor and Council made no comment.

#### Recreation Facilities Design and Construction

The Mayor and Council made no comment.

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## ENVIRONMENT

### Right-of-Way Maintenance and Beautification

Mayor Hovsepien asked if planting of trees on Ashley Avenue was part of the tree planting budget. Mr. Bayor explained that the City Forester has investigated this and the grass strip is too narrow. The City will have to go with smaller trees. Councilman Abrams asked that a letter be sent to all the civic association presidents as soon as a decision is made on the policy for removal of crab apple trees. Mr. Bayor explained that the list is still being compiled. Councilman Abrams said the people should be notified that the list is still open since many think that it is closed.

(At this time the Mayor and Council took a 10 minutes recess.)

### Storm Water Management

Councilman Duncan asked if the City is falling behind on its projects. Mr. LaFever explained that the staff originally thought it could design and complete three projects a year but only one project is getting done a year. It is taking a lot longer than expected and he hopes to be finished of all projects by 1996. Councilman Abrams asked once the testing is done, could there be more than one project under construction. Mr. LaFever explained that right now everything is in a bottle neck. Mayor Hovsepien said she would like to see an outline of the projects coming up and their schedule. Mr. Goodin said that this will be brought up at CIP time. Councilman Hartogensis asked if there would be enough manpower if three are constructed at one time. Mr. LaFever said if the City can get some good contractors. This is a new idea so contractors bid high because they are not sure what they are getting into. Mr. Blick said he would like to see the Storm Water Management Waiver Fee cover maintenance costs and he will be recommending an increase in the fees. Councilman Tyner asked what was happening to facilities on private property, what kind of inspection does the City provide. Mr. LaFever explained that the City's new inspector inspected 123 sited and found 24 not functioning. All but three have been fixed. It is the City's intention to do this inspection once a year and then quarterly or bi-yearly. Councilman Tyner asked the staff to find out what the response was from the Halpine Baptist Church.

### Historic Preservation

Councilman Abrams asked if there was any money in the budget for the Historic District Commission. Mr. Davis said there is \$500 in non-personnel. Councilman Abrams questioned the increase in Non-personnel funds. Mr. Davis explained that this is distributed among program supplies and professional development. Councilman Tyner asked if there is any reflection in the budget on the yard of the house next to the Beall Dawson House. Mr. Davis said no but could be a wish list item. Councilman Hartogensis asked if the jump in Salaries P/T is taken up by the grant person. Mr. Davis explained that there is an intern who is a graduate student at George Washington who is the staff support to the Historic District Commission and a part time person who is on a matching grant from George Washington that is working on the Historic Preservation Project, their salaries come from here.

Leaf Collection

The Mayor and Council made no changes.

Street Sanitation

Mayor Hovsepien asked if there was any progress made with the State on the City cleaning State roads. Mr. Goodin said a map has been outlined in detail and now all the City needs to do is get in touch with the State.

Councilman Hartogensis said the City's trucks are located on the east side of the City and the County's depot is on the west side and if any thought had been given to the possibility of having the County take care of the west side of town and the City take care of the east side of town and part of the County. Mr. Goodin said this would not be possible because he does not see the County giving the same type of service that the City provides.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

Councilman Hartogensis noted that the County attaches their refuse charge on to the property tax and the City does it under Utility Billing. He felt it would be of greater benefit to the City if it was done the same as the County. Mr. Blick explained that the City is able to do their billing quarterly where the County is not. Councilman Hartogensis felt that the City would be better off if it received payment a year in advance instead of three months later. It would mean having extra money and the City would be able to invest it.

Mayor Hovsepien asked how the recycling of metalics is handled. Mr. Douglass said it done as part of the once-a-month special collection process and transported to the Montgomery County Station where they pay so much per ton.

Sewage Disposal

The Mayor and Council made no comment.

Sewage Collection

Councilman Abrams asked if the City is running to problems with root maintenance now that the City's sewer system is getting older. Mr. Sutton said rooting and flushing should decrease as the City gets into root maintenance. Mayor Hovsepien asked if clean outs are done on a routine basis. Mr. Sutton said they are only done when profile shows it is necessary or when the City is called. Councilman Hartogensis asked if citizens call a plumber first do they lose the right to get reimbursed. Mr. Sutton explained that usually a plumber will come out and try to free up the problem but many times he can't get to the problem and ends up calling the City anyway. Councilman Hartogensis asked if a memo had ever been sent to all plumbers in the City regarding the City's policy. Mr. Sutton said most plumbers know the City's policy. It is the plumbers that are called outside the area that have problems.

Sewage Utilities System Construction

The Mayor and Council made no comment.

## HEALTH AND SAFETY

### Water Treatment

Councilman Tyner asked what ever happened to the famous "energy saving pump". Mr. Goodin said it did not work out to be a cost saver. The department has been making analysis of the plan and is beginning a program of bringing all equipment up to date. Everything at the plant is working up to design quality.

### Utility Billing and Customer Service

The Mayor and Council made no comment.

### Water Distribution

Councilman Abrams asked if there was any idea on what the actual performance was in 1985 in Hydrant Maintenance/Discoloration. Mr. Sutton said he would get back on this. Councilman Abrams asked if the flushings are the cause of discoloration since the ratio seems to be the same. Mr. Sutton said it should not be because the City does its flushing early in the morning or later in the evening in order to minimize disruption. Mayor Hovsepian asked how the City comes about replacing old hydrants with new ones. Is this being done on a regular basis or when one breaks. Mr. Sutton said they have done 15 this year. The policy is to replace the hydrant if it is in need of repair. There are 23 brands of hydrants located in the City and it is hard to stock each brand. Councilman Hartogensis said he hopes the new ones are being replaced with the same brand. Mr. Sutton said the City is using four different hydrants. Councilman Abrams asked the life span of a hydrant. Mr. Butchart said there are some that are 90 years old.

### Water System Construction

The Council made no comment.

## TRANSPORTATION

### Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning

Councilman Abrams asked if there was room for an additional planner. Mr. Blick said they are not looking at adding an additional person. Councilman Tyner said he would like a list of current working priorities and where they relate directly to a planning effort.

### Mass Transportation

Councilman Abrams said the City is not paying for the study on the Pike Shuttle, but he feels there may be a time when the City will have to help with it and there should be something in the budget in terms of staff time, i.e., meeting with developers and/or citizens. He felt this would be the proper place to reflect it. Mr. Blick said nothing was added because staff was not sure where to put it. He will give some thought to it. Councilman Hartogensis asked if Rockville contributed to the deficit of the Rockville Metro Rail. Mr. Blick



said no. Councilman Hartogensis asked the same question about Ride-On. Mr. Blick explained it is the same situation.

#### Street Maintenance

The Mayor and Council made no comment.

#### Street Design and Construction

Mayor Hovsepien asked the status of the Gude Drive Bridge. Mr. Morningstar said it is to be completed in July and the contractor has kept on schedule and has done a good job.

#### Traffic Operations

Councilman Abrams asked if there has been any money anticipated on traffic signalization. Mr. Blick said yes there has.

#### Snow and Ice Control

The Mayor and Council made no changes.

#### Bikeways

The Mayor and Council made no changes.

#### Pedestrian Ways

The Mayor and Council made no changes.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council in work session, the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m. to convene again in general session on Monday, May 13, 1985, at 8:00 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.